MARVEL

4

SPIDER-MAN NOIR

RATED T+

LARSEN
BROCCARDO
ROSENBERG

MARVEL

4

VARIANT EDITION

SPIDER-MAN NOIR

RATED **T+**

The day **started** like any other.

I sidled up to the **bar** at the Black Cat Club, settled down with an **egg cream** and then some **oddball** burst into the joint and yelled something **insane** at the top of his lungs.

THIS IS CYRUS GOOP, GHOST-HUNTER!

DO NOT BE ALARMED!

WHILE YOU ARE SURROUNDED BY GHOSTS--

--THERE IS NO NEED TO BE CONCERNED!

I AM EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH ALL SUPERNATURAL APPARITIONS!

THE SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL!

YOU ARE PERFECTLY SAFE AS LONG AS YOU REMAIN CALM!

As is **often** the case--I'm **curious** to see where this goes.

Okay--scratch that.

I thought this was some kind of comedy routine--like something from *Fibber McGee* and *Molly, Lum and Abner*--

--but this cat's dangerous.

WHOA, WHOA--

HOLD ON, FELLOW--!

FRIZZIKKATTKK!

SKRIKATAK!

DO YOU HEAR ME, GHOSTS? YOU CAN'T RUN FROM ME! THERE'S NOWHERE TO HIDE!

THERE'S NO ESCAPE!

YOU WILL LEAVE THIS REALM FOR THE LIVING!

Even the roaches are running for cover!

FRIZZAKKITA!

STAY BACK, SPIDER-MAN!

YOU'RE MEDDLING IN AFFAIRS FAR BEYOND YOUR COMPREHENSION!

I GET THAT A LOT, BUT, REALLY--

--I'M SMARTER THAN I LOOK!

SKRAKKATT!

I'VE SEEN THINGS YOU CAN ONLY IMAGINE-- WHEREAS YOU'RE SEEING IMAGINARY THINGS!

THERE'S A DIFFERENCE.

PAF!

And that ended it.

Thankfully, I took the precaution of pulling my punch.

If I'd hit him with everything I had, there'd be bits of him in everybody's glass.

I'M SORRY FOR THE EXCITEMENT!

THE DANGER IS OVER!

SO--DRINK UP, EVERYBODY!

Don't mind if I do.

Still--it makes a guy **wonder** what all the **hooting** and **hollering** was about.

So, I walked over to Cyrus Goop, Ghost-Hunter, to avail myself of his fancy specter-viewing **spectacles**, so I could get a **gander** at what the old fellow was going on about...

...and **see** for myself what **he** had been seeing.

And so I did.

The room was **filled** with unseen, unfelt, ghostly apparitions dressed in tattered clothes, dragging chains--like something out of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol.*

And they were acting **inapproproately.**

Granted, they **weren't** doing **any** harm, and **none** of the patrons could **see** or **feel** them, but it was more than a little...

...unsettling.

OKAY...

WELL, ***THAT*** WAS CERTAINLY SOMETHING.

Maybe it's better that they **don't** know about that.

DAILY BUGLE
NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

SPIDER-MAN NOIR

THE GWEN STACY AFFAIR, PART IV

PREVIOUSLY...

It's 1939 and private detective PETER PARKER, using powers he received from a mystical spider bite, moonlights as the vigilante SPIDER-MAN! Recently, he was able to foil the dastardly SCORPION GANG's heist but had to shoot his way out to do so. Then, GWEN STACY hired Peter to look for answers about her father's murder, and his investigation soon turned up the worst. GEORGE STACY hadn't been the straight shooter everyone thought—he'd been moonlighting with the Scorpion Gang all along! His killer? SPIDER-MAN! Despite his fear of losing Gwen, Peter finally admitted to knowing who killed her father. But now she wants him to unmask Spider-Man!

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SPIDER-MAN created by **STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO**

Frankly, I'll take **any** distraction to keep my mind off my latest assignment...

PETER PARKER PRIVATE EYE

...finding the **secret identity** of the masked adventurer **Spider-Man**.

HE'S *VERY* GOOD AT COVERING HIS TRACKS, *WHOEVER* HE IS.

PRESUMING HE *IS* A "HE."

SO...WHAT'S THE *PLAN?* WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU *GET* YOUR ANSWER?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO... GIVE HIM A GOOD *TALKING* TO?

SHOOT HIM?

I MEAN... WHAT DO YOU *WANT* WITH THIS GUY? *PRESUMING* HE'S A GUY?

HE KILLED MY *FATHER.*

YES.

YES, OF *COURSE* HE DID.

5th BODY FOUND

I MEANT NO *DISRESPECT.*

Now, Gwendolyn Stacy **knows** that Spider-Man acted in self-defense.

She **knows** her father ran with the **Scorpion Gang**. She **knows** he was a killer. She **knows** he pulled a gun on Spider-Man.

I've **explained** it all to her over and over. And yet she **insists** on finding out who is the man behind Spider-Man's mask.

And I can't help but ask, *"How the hell do I get **out** of this mess?"*

There's a killer on the loose.

The news is going on about some maniac in a diving helmet.

I can't imagine there are a lot of other people running around town in diving helmets.

Which means he made it out of the fire alive and he's another mess I'll need to clean up.

NO, NO-- YOU HOLD IT LIKE THIS--

--AND YOU FLICK IT.

I presume it's the patient I saw stretched out on a table in Dr. Helga Haag's Nazi laboratory a few days back.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING CREEPING UP ON PEOPLE LIKE THAT?

WHAT'S WITH THE HELMET?

HEY, WEIRDO--

HALLOWEEN WAS A COUPLE WEEKS AGO.

YOU OKAY, BUDDY?

WHAT ARE YOU-- HEY!

HEY, LET GO OF ME!

AAAAIIIEEE!

SKITCH!

YOU'RE IN **QUEENS**, AUNT MAY.

HE'S BEEN SPOTTED IN **MANHATTAN**.

I'VE READ THE PAPERS. HE'S MOSTLY KILLED **YOUNG MEN**.

I **HATE** TO BE THE ONE TO BREAK IT TO YOU-- BUT YOU'RE NOT A **YOUNG MAN**.

I **KNOW** THAT I'M SPIDER-MAN. I GET THAT.

YEAH, YEAH, "GREAT POWER" AND "GREAT RESPONSIBILITY." I KNOW ALL ABOUT--

I'LL LOOK INTO IT... I **HAVE** LOOKED FOR HIM.

BUT I CAN'T BE **EVERYWHERE**.

I'M **AFRAID** TO STEP OUTSIDE.

ANNA WENT DOWN TO THE **CORNER** TO GET SOME **BRICK MUSH** AND I WAS WORRIED SICK THE WHOLE TIME SHE WAS GONE.

IT WAS **TERRIBLE**. I'VE NEVER **BEEN** SO WORRIED.

NOBODY HERE BUT **BOOTSIE**. AND SHE JUST SAT THERE SLEEPING AWAY WITHOUT A CONCERN IN THE WORLD.

PLEASE, PETER... I KNOW... BUT YOU REALLY SHOULD TRY TO **HELP** THESE POOR PEOPLE.

I'LL DO WHAT I **CAN**.

I CAN GO OUT **LOOKING** FOR HIM IF THAT WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.

IS **THAT** WHAT YOU WANT?

IF IT WOULDN'T BE TOO MUCH **TROUBLE**.

YOU SHOULD TRY TO SAVE LIVES.

IF YOU WOULD, PLEASE LEAVE THE **GUNS** AT HOME.

I DON'T WANT YOU TO **SHOOT** ANYBODY.

-SIGH-

I HAVE **ENOUGH** TROUBLE WITH ALL OF THE **OTHER** TENANTS.

I'M **SORRY**, MRS. WONG.

THREE MORE DAYS. I PROMISE.

Ah, Mrs. Wong.

Never change!

I need **some** constants in my life.

I **was** going to go after the guy in the diving helmet, I swear.

So **why** does it feel so much like I'm running an **errand** for Aunt May?

She really needs to get back to her **charity** work and stop sitting there listening to the **radio** and getting herself into a **tizzy**.

It's **one** thing if she's listening to *Vic and Sade*, *Ma Perkins*, or *The Romance of Helen Trent*. But once she starts in on the **news** and the escalating conflict in **Europe**, she's off to the races.

Toss in a local story about a **maniac** in a **diving helmet** and she's practically worked up into a **lather**.

That happy **couple** doesn't look like they're up to anything nefarious.

They're not likely to cause any trouble.

There's **Officer Frink** moving along a homeless man.

The poor guy needs to sleep **somewhere**, Willy.

They're as peaceful as a horse.

Give the fellow a **break**.

AAAIIIEEEE!!!

Okay, that sounded like it could be something.

Now we're getting somewhere.

Okay...

The screaming stopped.

Is that good or bad?

I thought it was coming from over--

And there he is.

Looks like he's updated his wardrobe a bit since I last saw him, but I'm pretty sure that's the same fool that I saw stretched out on a slab in Helga Haag's Nazi Laboratory.

...

Did he just kill that guy?

SPLANNG!

BAD NEWS, CHESTER--

SEEMS THEY'VE OUTLAWED COLD-BLOODED MURDER IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

BELIEVE ME, I WAS JUST AS SURPRISED AS YOU ARE WHEN I HEARD THE NEWS!

THAP

WHOA, HEY!

It's a good thing I don't take **crimefighting** advice from my Aunt May.

BLAM! BLAM!

SPANNG!

For whatever good **that** does me.

GHUU!

The rest is a blur.

I could feel the **life** being sucked out of me.

I didn't **relish** the notion of being turned into another one of those stacks of ashes the cops kept stumbling across.

I fought **back** as best I could.

Kicking with whatever might I had left.

THONK!

He **tossed** me aside like a rag doll.

FLUMPH!

WHAT IN...?

WHAT IN GOD'S NAME HAPPENED TO *YOU*, BOY?

NNGH.

And then the lights went out.

!

...WHAT HAPPENED?

...WHERE AM I?

ARE YOU OKAY?

I'M...

...NOT SURE THAT I AM.

MY DADDY BROUGHT YOU IN LAST NIGHT.

YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS. SOMEBODY MUGGED YOU OR SOMETHING. NOT SURE HOW YOU GOT UP HERE.

DADDY HAD TO GO TO WORK, BUT I STAYED HOME TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE OKAY.

CAN I GET YOU ANYTHING? SOMETHING TO EAT MAYBE?

1939

YAP! YAP! YAP!

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

PETER... I'M PETER.

I WAS ATTACKED BY THAT KILLER.

THE ONE ON THE NEWS.

THE DIVING-HELMET KILLER.

HEAVENS TO BETSY.

IT'S A MIRACLE THAT YOU'RE ALIVE.

YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST.

YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.

I'LL BE ALL RIGHT, MISS...?

HELEN. HELEN HARRIS.

THAT NAP ON YOUR COUCH WAS JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED, MISS HARRIS.

HELEN.

THANK YOUR DADDY FOR ME, HELEN.

YOU BE SAFE NOW.

YOU TOO.

I stumble home.

Feeling none the wiser.

I don't know what that guy did to me, but I haven't felt like this since before I acquired my Spider-powers.

I'm as weak as a kitten.

As for the guy in the diving helmet...

...he seems to have vanished.

AAAIIIEE!

NOT SO LOUD, SISTER--

TAKE MY MONEY--BUT PLEASE DON'T HURT ME.

WHY DO I HAVE TO CHOOSE?

I haven't seen hide nor hair of him.

THWIPP!

OH GOD--!

OH GOD--!

AIIIEEE!

THWIPP!

THRAKK!

CRUNCH!

SNAP

KRAKK!

WHAT?

I SEE **SPIDER-MAN** HAS BEEN KEEPING BUSY.

FIGHTING **CRIME** AND SUCH...

?

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO **TELL** ME?

HAVE YOU HEARD FROM **PETER**, MAY?

PETER'S IN **HERE**, MARY JANE.

SHOULD I CALL THE **POLICE?**

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

WHY ARE YOU TWO ACTING SO STRANGELY?

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

THAT'S CLOSE ENOUGH, BUSTER.

STAY AWAY FROM ME.

OKAY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK IS...?

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU?

1939

YOU'RE SHAKING LIKE A LEAF.

SKRASH!

NOW SHOULD I CALL THE POLICE?

BLAM! BLAM!
SHOOT HIM!
KILL HIM!
NO GUNS.
NO GUNS.
SOMEBODY SHOOT THAT BLASTED JACK-RABBIT!
WHAT THE--?!
NO MORE GUNS.
SKRAKK!
RUNCH!
SKITCH!
NO GUNS.
CHAKK!
SPIDER-MAN...
...WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
THAT CAN'T BE SPIDER-MAN.
OH NO.
OH NO, NO, NO.
JEEPERS!

I LOST MY SPIDER-POWERS SOMEHOW.

THAT FELLOW FROM THE NEWS--

--THE ONE WITH THE DIVING HELMET--

--I FOUGHT HIM--HE GRABBED ME...AND THEN-- NOTHING.

ARE YOU BUYING THIS?

...SIX HUNDRED JEWS KILLED BY GERMAN POLICE IN GERMAN-OCCUPIED POLAND...

PETER USUALLY SENSES DANGER WITH HIS SPIDER-SENSE.

BUT I HIT HIM WITH THAT DISH JUST LIKE THAT.

HE TOOK THEM SOMEHOW.

THEY'RE GONE.

ALL OF THEM... GONE.

AND WE'RE JUST SUPPOSED TO TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT, AFTER WHAT YOU SAID THE OTHER DAY ABOUT WISHING YOU'D KEPT YOUR SECRET A SECRET?

NICE TRY, PETER, BUT THIS ISN'T MY FIRST TIME AT THE DANCE.

HE SEEMS SO SINCERE.

NOTHING.

THEY'RE GONE.

ALL OF MY POWERS...

...GONE.

NEWS FLASH--THE SPIDER-MAN STRIKES!

A NIGHT OF MAYHEM HAS LEFT THIRTY MEN DEAD! THE MASKED CRIME-BUSTER, SPIDER-MAN, HAS GONE WILD!

WITNESSES DESCRIBE HIM AS A CRAZED MADMAN, SAVAGELY RIPPING INTO GANG MEMBERS AND OTHER ALLEGED CRIMINALS.

...IT'S THE KILLER.

SOMEHOW, HE TOOK MY POWERS-- AND NOW HE'S GOING ON A KILLING SPREE-- AS SPIDER-MAN!

WHAT DO YOU **MEAN** "THEY'RE ALL DEAD"?

THEY **CAN'T** BE "ALL DEAD"! WHAT IS **WRONG** WITH YOU MUGS?

HE'S **ONE** MAN! ONE **LUNATIC!** YOU TELLING ME THAT YOU SORRY SACKS OF--

YOU MUGS COULDN'T PUT A **BULLET** INTO ONE **LEAPING LUNATIC?!**

WHAT'S IT **NOW**, BOIL?

THE **BOYS** HAVIN' A HARD TIME WIT' SPIDER-MAN?

SPIDER-MAN!

HOW... HOW DID YOU **FIND** ME?

OH MY **GAWD!**

YOU'VE GOTTA STOP HIM, BOIL!

THROOM!

HARDBOIL.

YOUR TIME IS UP.

KAKK.

SKITCH!

WHAT ARE...?

STAY **BACK!**

GET **AWAY** FROM ME!

DO AS YOU **WILL** WITH THAT HULKING HEAP OF **FLESH**, SPIDER-MAN.

HE IS OF NO **CONCERN** TO ME.

THOUGH **GARRETT GUTSTOP** MAY PERISH--

--HARDBOIL WILL LIVE ON!

PETER! THANK GOD!
I'VE HEARD THE NEWS.
SPIDER-MAN HAS GONE MAD.
NOBODY IS SAFE.
DO YOU HAVE ANY WEAPONS IN THE HOUSE?
ANYTHING...?
I'VE GOT MY FATHER'S GUN.
GET IT, GWEN.
WE'RE GOING TO NEED IT.
SPIDER-MAN HAS BEEN KILLING ANY AND EVERYBODY CONNECTED WITH THE NEW YORK GANGS.
HE'S KILLED THE HARDBOIL GANG.
THE SCORPION GANG IS NEXT AND THAT TRAIL LEADS BACK... HERE.
I'LL PROTECT YOU, GWEN--I SWEAR IT.
WE CAN DO THIS.
I KNOW HOW HE THINKS.
HOLD ME, PETER.
HOLD ME.
THUMP! THUMP!
GWENDOLYN...
GET THE GUN.
GWENDOLYN...!
To Be Continued.

SPIDERS & SYMBIOTES

THE LOWE-DOWN

HAPPY NEW YEAR, WEB-HEADS!

Welcome to THE YEAR OF SPIDER-MAN! First and foremost, of course, is AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1000 in September, but add to that a SPIDER-MOVIE and the second season of *Your Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man*? It's UNDENIABLE! To kick off the year, you're about to start the climax of the first year of this volume of ASM's space/Earth story and we're also treating you to the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL with SALADIN AHMED and FEDERICO VICENTINI bringing us the next incredible chapter of RAPID'S storyline, which began last year in GIANT-SIZE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN along with HUGELY important Spidey/symbiote stories. Counter-programming Spider-Year, we're also launching DUNGEONS OF DOOM, picking up from where ONE WORLD UNDER DOOM left off. Get a horrifying peek at the items unearthed after Doom's fall from power that scared Doom himself! PHILLIP KENNEDY JOHNSON and BENJAMIN PERCY lead an awesome art team to blow your mind! Stay warm and see you next month!

Keep Thwippin',
Nick Lowe
Spider-Editor

THIS MONTH'S HOST

NAME: Al Ewing

TITLE: "Hey, you" is fine

WORKS ON:
VENOM (and THE MORTAL THOR)

WHO IS YOUR IRL SUPER HERO?

George Michael made some great music, lived unapologetically and did a lot of good for people who needed it, often anonymously and in secret. He's as good a pick as any, but honestly anyone who takes time and trouble to help someone else is hero enough for me.

WHICH SPIDER-MAN VILLAIN DO YOU MOST RESONATE WITH?

It's got to be the Chairman! Like him, I have a gun that turns people into chairs, but when people throw snack products at me it backfires and turns me into a chair. So we've got a lot in common.

IF YOU COULD GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF ONE PIECE OF ADVICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

You're trapped in a fake idea of yourself and it's killing you. When you finally break out of the prison in your head, you're going to be so happy, so maybe get a head start on that now.

NEED YOUR SPIDER-FIX WHILE YOU WAIT FOR NEXT ISSUE?

THWIP-LIST

- ❑ ALL-NEW SPIDER-GWEN: THE GHOST SPIDER #6
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #19
- ❑ MARVEL RIVALS: THE CITIES OF HEAVEN #1
- ❑ SPIDER-MAN NOIR #4
- ❑ VENOM #253
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: TORN #4
- ❑ BLACK CAT #6
- ❑ DUNGEONS OF DOOM #1
- ❑ KNULL #1

- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #20
- ❑ HULK: SMASH EVERYTHING #2
- ❑ PLANET SHE-HULK #3
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #1

- ❑ INFERNAL HULK #3
- ❑ MARVEL ZOMBIES: RED BAND #5
- ❑ MILES MORALES: SPIDER-MAN #42

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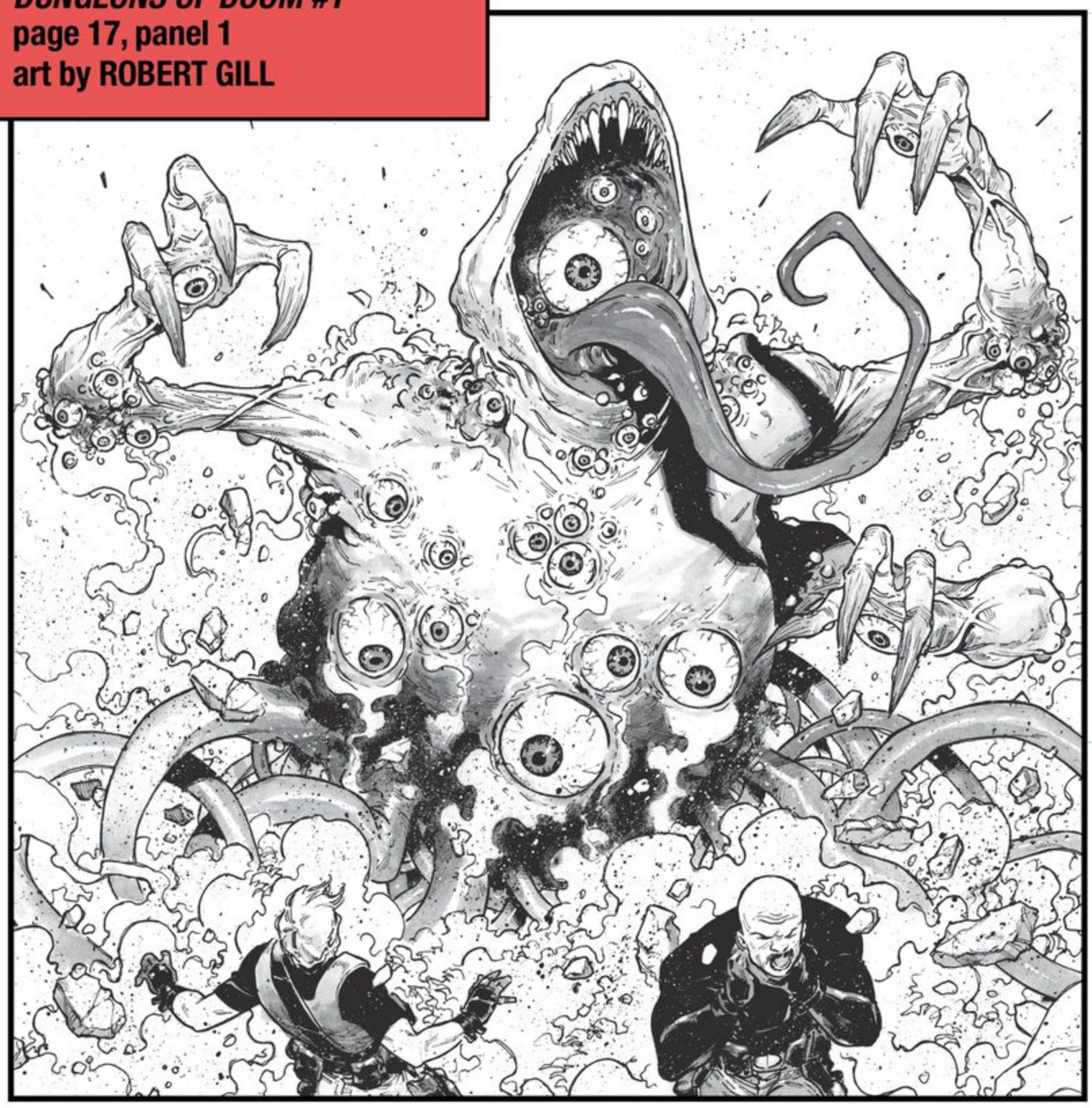
PANEL OF THE MONTH:

DUNGEONS OF DOOM #1
page 17, panel 1
art by ROBERT GILL



GAMMA CORNER

IS HE SPIDER, OR IS HE SYMBIOTE...OR IS HE NEITHER?

WHERE IS BRUCE BANNER?!?!

An evil Hulk is raising a monster army to take the world back into darkness, and the man who made the Hulk is nowhere to be seen! Find out where Bruce and Betty are hiding in INFERNAL HULK #3!

One place they are definitely NOT hiding is the planet Sakaar—but you can check for yourself in PLANET SHE-HULK #3! Another place he isn't is in the middle of a supermassive black hole—but this one time, he WAS there, and you can see THAT in HULK SMASH EVERYTHING #3!

INFERNAL HULK #3
On sale 12/10

EDGE OF THE VARIANT-VERSE

We in the Spider-Office are no stranger to variants--we've got a Spider-Verse full of 'em. It's hard to narrow it down, but check out our favorite variant cover of the month.

BLACK CAT #4
Street-Verse Variant Cover
by INHYUK LEE

Your favorite game MARVEL RIVALS comes to life in comic form in TWO weekly Infinity stories, creatively labeled MARVEL RIVALS and MARVEL RIVALS UNLEASHED!

NEXT: SPIDER-MAN NOIR #5

ON SALE IN FEBRUARY

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